

Amendments

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-24 (previously canceled)

Claims 25-26 (withdrawn and previously canceled)

Claims 27-45 (previously canceled)

Claim 46 (original) A method for preparing filter media for use in a filter module, the method comprising:

(a) providing a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments of a copolymer material, the fragments being provided at a temperature sufficient for the development of molecular bonds between adjacent fragments; and

(b) accumulating the fragments into an agglomerated mass of predetermined shape to form a block of filter media.

Claim 47 (original) The method of claim 46 further comprising encasing the block within support structure to form a filter module.

Claim 48 (original) The method of claim 46 wherein the copolymer material includes about 72% SBS and about 28% EPDM by weight.

Claim 49 (previously amended) The method of claim 46 wherein providing a multitude of fragments includes:

(a) feeding a mixture of SBS and EPDM through an extruder;

(b) maintaining the mixture at a temperature above the softening point of EPDM and below the melting point of SBS; and

(c) shearing the extruded mixture into pieces.

Claim 50 (original) The method of claim 46 wherein accumulating the fragments includes:

- (a) providing a form having an open end and one or more recessed regions accessible from the open end;
- (b) feeding the fragments into the recessed regions at a temperature sufficient for the development of molecular bonds between adjacent fragments; and
- (c) permitting the fragments to cool;

whereby the fragments expand and bond together to form a block of filter media.

Claim 51 (original) The method of claim 50 wherein providing the form includes using a form with two tapered recesses on opposite sides of a centrally elevated portion.

Claim 52 (original) The method of claim 50 further comprising:

- (a) releasing the block from the form; and
- (b) adhering sheet material to sides of the block that are to be vertical in operation.

Claim 53 (original) The method of claim 50 wherein providing the form includes using a portion of support structure that encases the block to form a filter module.

Claim 54 (original) A filter module including a block of filter media encased within a support structure, the filter module being made by the method of claim 46.

Claim 55 (original) A filter module including a block of filter media encased within a support structure, the filter module being made by the method of any one of claims 47-53.

Claims 56-66 (withdrawn and previously canceled)

Claim 67 (previously presented) A method of filtering liquid comprising:

(a) forming a block of filter media of predetermined shape from an agglomerated mass consisting essentially of a multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments of a copolymer material with molecular bonds between adjacent fragments;

(b) supporting the block with support structure;

(c) placing the block in a storm drain in a position to allow liquid to pass through the material of the block.

Claim 68 (previously presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the copolymer material includes about 72% SBS and about 28% EPDM by weight.

Claim 69 (previously presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the predetermined shape includes a concave recess and wherein part (c) comprises placing the block in a position to allow liquid to pass into the recess before passing through the material of the block.

Claim 70 (previously presented) The method of claim 67 wherein the support structure and the block are sized to fit within a storm drain of typical dimensions, suspended below a grate of the storm drain.

Claim 71 (previously presented) The method of claim 70 further comprising, after parts (a)-(c):

(d) removing the grate from the storm drain with the block and the support structure remaining suspended within the storm drain; and

(e) then replacing the block in the storm drain with a replacement block of filter media of the same kind.

Claim 72 (previously presented) The method of claim 67 further comprising flexibly suspending the support structure from a bracket.

Claim 73 (previously presented) The method of claim 72 wherein part (c) comprises placing the bracket so that it is supported by at least two edges of a storm drain below a grate of the storm drain, and wherein the bracket, the support structure, and the block are sized to fit within a storm drain of typical dimensions below a grate of the storm drain.

Claim 74 (previously presented) The method of claim 73 further comprising, after parts (a)-(c):

(d) removing the grate from the storm drain with the block and the support structure remaining suspended from the bracket within the storm drain; and

(e) then replacing the block in the storm drain with a replacement block of filter media of the same kind.

Claim 75 (previously presented) The method of claim 74 wherein part (e) comprises, first, lifting the bracket while the block remains supported by the support structure and suspended from the bracket, then removing the block so that it is no longer supported by the support structure, then placing the replacement block so that it is supported by the support structure, and then lowering the bracket so that it is again supported by at least two sides of the storm drain with the replacement block suspended from the bracket and supported by the support structure.

Claim 76 (previously presented) The method of claim 75 wherein lifting the bracket includes placing a pair of tongs having outward facing hooks in a position such that the hooks support opposite sides of the bracket.

Claim 77 (previously presented) The method of claim 71 further comprising incinerating the block after it has been removed from the storm drain.

Claim 78 (presently presented) A filter comprising a block consisting essentially of an agglomerated multitude of irregular, macroscopic fragments of a copolymer material with molecular bonds between adjacent fragments.

Claim 79 (presently presented) The filter of claim 78 further comprising a support structure.

Claim 80 (presently presented) The filter of claim 79 supported in a storm drain.

Claim 81 (presently presented) The filter of claim 80 further comprising a grate at an opening to the storm drain, and wherein the block is suspended below the grate of the storm drain by the support structure.

Claim 82 (presently presented) The filter of claim 78 wherein the copolymer material includes about 72% SBS and about 28% EPDM by weight.

Claim 83 (presently presented) The filter of claim 78 wherein the block has a concave central recess and at least two side walls.